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# The Doon School WEEKLY

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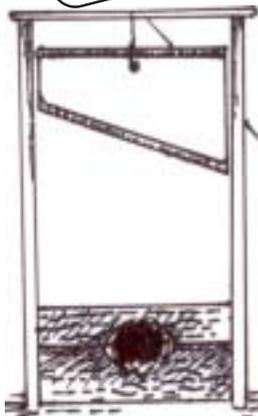


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## The Guillotine

*Rushil Singh takes a stand on a controversial issue*

The law prohibits an individual from taking his own life. Therefore, the idea of the law demanding the execution of a human being is absurd. The death sentence is an uncivilized and obsolete way of dealing with crime. It was employed in the olden times when barbaric and sadistic punishments were still prevalent and non-violence was a distant concept.

We have evolved since then, and know that murder is not the answer. The crimes committed by Saddam Hussein were undoubtedly heinous and revolting but no crime, however barbaric, deserves the death sentence. The death sentence is against the very concept of humanity. Justice can never be delivered by means of violence. A murder is not the remedy to a massacre.

The law cannot stoop to the level of a criminal and perform a similar act. It would set a bad example for the public, especially the youth. Everyone has the right to live and the death penalty is thus a breach of human rights. How can the law promote bloodshed as an answer to injustice, a way of achieving vengeance? 'Tit for tat' people may say, but that is not the way any system should work. Two wrongs don't make a right.

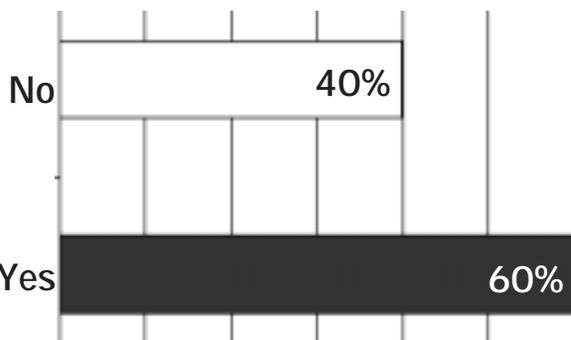
We need to deal with this matter rationally. Instead of awarding Saddam a death sentence the judge could have pondered this matter a little longer and come to a viable conclusion. Perhaps life imprisonment would be harsh enough and give Saddam a chance to think, in silent contrition, about what he did. Putting him to death will not bring the people he brutally murdered back to life. It will only aggravate the situation further, and we all know how volatile the situation in Iraq currently is. For a majority of people in his native country, Saddam was God. The death sentence may just make him a martyr in their eyes. Saddam's death sentence could stimulate rebellion. Riots could break out. A milder punishment will enable the people to bury the matter and move on. Often, a punishment has graver consequences than the crime itself. Saddam has murdered scores of people. It would be foolish to add to the list by giving him the death penalty. Is it reasonable to award Saddam a death sentence just to provide vengeance to the bereaved parties?

Justice, contrary to popular belief, is not blind and we cannot let this become a case of murder for murder. Violating the right to life of a man for committing a crime does not provide justice. Instead of stubbornly holding on to the past, we need to relent and let the matter rest.



### Opinion Poll

Do you support the death sentence on Saddam Hussein?



301 members of the community participated in the poll.  
Next Week's Question: Do you find value in tutorial night-outs?

### Why we voted the way we did...

*It is an interesting observation that while our cover-story strongly protests the hanging Saddam Hussein, the former Iraqi President, nearly 60% of the school community goes against this view. In my opinion, I feel that many of the 'Yes' voters are swayed by the Americanised view of 'Devil' Saddam. That, just as after the World War, Hitler was portrayed as barbaric and inhuman, the western media has labelled him with similar attributes.*

*The overwhelming majority, in my opinion, are not 'for' the death penalty in itself, but feel that given the atrocities committed by Saddam, he deserves death. I agree with this view but feel that a decision of this kind must be taken after careful consideration (given the sectarian violence and domestic chaos in Iraq) and correct legal procedures must be followed. The convicted should have a fair trial, chance for re-appeal and then abide by the legal verdict. It is perhaps for this reason that a substantial number of us (40%) disagree with the sentence accorded to him.*

*(Editor-in-Chief)*

## REGULARS

### NEW FACE

We would like to welcome Mr. Debashish Bhrama as our new **Head of Human Resources**. We wish him a fruitful tenure here.

### QUIZ WHIZZES

In the **Inter-House Quiz Competition 2006**, the following are the results:

First: Kashmir; Second: Hyderabad; Third: Oberoi and Jaipur; Fifth: Tata. Well done! (A report runs in this issue.)

### THE SCHOLAR

Pulkit Baheti has been awarded the **Scholar's Blazer**. Congratulations!

### MUSIC COLOURS

The following boys have been awarded **School Music Colours**:

Pranay Agarwal, Anish Dundoo, Indresh Pathak, Mihir Misra, Pulkit Sharma. Congratulations!

### BOOKWORM

Ashish Mitter has been re-appointed **Secretary of the Library Council** for the forthcoming year. He will be assisted by Vishnukaant Pitty and Saksham Sharda in the workings of the Council. Congratulations!

### PUBLICATION APPOINTMENTS

The following are the appointments to the various school publications:

**The DSIR**: Chief Editor: Ashish Mitter, Editor: Angad Singh, Chief of Production: Saksham Sharda.

**The Echo**: Chief Editors: Angad Singh and Gaurav Sood.

**The Yearbook**: Chief Editors: Eshaan Tiwary and Ankit Durga. We wish them a fruitful year.

### TABLE TENNIS TOPPERS

Pulkit Baheti and Sachin Batra were awarded **Full Colours** in **Table Tennis** while Arpit Panjwani and Amit Gupta were awarded **Half Colours**. Congratulations!



## doonspeak

Should cross-country have been cancelled?

Should be restarted....desperately required. - **Udai Singh**

Interesting activity, should be re-scheduled, not cancelled! -**Shikhar Singh**

There should be cross-country because wining cross-country is the tradition of Oberoi House. -**Nitish Saini**

It has been cancelled? -**Saksham Sharda**

Very thoughtful....appreciated. -**Akshit Batra**

A tradition being broken -**Chirag Nangia**

It's just great they cancelled it because no one likes to run that much -**Ranjai Sodhi**

No House feast. -**Mehul Mehrotra**

## Dramatic Act

*Bharat Ganju and Shoumitra Shrivastava interview  
Bridget Virgo, who helped boys with their preparation for  
the LAMDA examination*

**The Doon School Weekly(DSW): Tell us a bit about yourself.**

**Bridget Virgo (BDV):** I presently live in London. I was born in East England and lived on a sheep farm. I studied Ancient History and Archaeology from the University of Liverpool. I studied acting in the East 15 Acting School. I teach drama to children and I am also a fitness instructor. I am a professional actor and when I am not involved in drama or fitness, I work in a local pub in London. I am also part of a society which performs plays on a voluntary basis. Sometimes we have two to three performances a day in which we arrive at one venue, set up our things, perform the play, pack up and drive to the next venue.

**DSW: Have you done LAMDA yourself?**

**BDV:** I haven't done LAMDA myself but I have done Guildhall, which is like LAMDA. They are both drama schools in England.

**DSW: What were your first impressions about The Doon School?**

**BDV:** I first thought that it would be extremely daunting being a white female in the middle of a school with five hundred boys but when I arrived and was served a burger and chips and had a fork and knife by my side, I had an extreme culture shock. All the boys were extremely hospitable and when I was called 'ma'am' I felt like royalty! Everyone was over-willing to help and all the teachers were like English gentlemen!

**DSW: What do you think of the Doscocs' language skills?**

**BDV:** I was extremely impressed by the Doscocs' language skills and the fact that they had so much confidence in themselves. Most people in England don't have the courage to stand up in front of an audience and speak.

**DSW: What, according to you is the role of public speaking in one's life?**

**BDV:** I think it is extremely helpful in building self-confidence and gives you the satisfaction of being able to express yourself. It allows you to connect with a large audience.

**DSW: Tell us something about your personal interests.**

**BDV:** Well, I really love doing yoga, and when I came here, Mr. Tomar helped me a lot. Apart from that, I like to read. Any book that comes within reach, I immediately pick up. At present I am reading an autobiography of the late John Pale who was a radio jockey. He was instrumental in discovering new bands and artistes in England. I like watching movies, regardless of what the movie is about. In London I watch movies at a place called Dalston, which is like a mini-Jamaica. Over there they screen movies from all over the world and I enjoy watching them. I also like taking walks in the country.

**DSW: Any cherished memories that you will take back with you?**

**BDV:** Everything. Just the general atmosphere and hospitality of this place and how beautiful the green fields are. I especially like the attitude of the boys and the way they listen to every word of yours. They are so attentive, that working with them is really satisfying.

## हमें याद कीजियेगा

प्रांजल सिंह

जब याद हमारी आये,  
तब हमें याद कीजियेगा ।  
जब राग में भी वैराग्य आये,  
तब हमें याद कीजियेगा ।  
हँसते हँसते जब रोना आ जाये,  
तब हमें याद कीजियेगा ।  
आँखें जब तरस जायें,  
तब हमें याद कीजियेगा ।  
जब आपका दिल धाधे,  
तब हमें याद कीजियेगा ।  
हम आपके सामने होंगे,  
जब आप हमें याद कीजियेगा ।

मैं इंसान हूँ

सुहास सुल्लर

हजारों के बीच रहते हुए भी,  
आज मालूम पड़ा कि मैं अकेला हूँ।  
फैली ज़मीन और  
खुले आसमान के होते हुए भी  
आज मालूम पड़ा कि मैं गुलाम हूँ ।  
अपने महासागर  
और मुसकुराते झिलमिलाते  
तारों के बीच,  
हवा की ताल पर नाचते हुए,  
फूलों को देखकर,  
आज मालूम पड़ा कि मैं परेशान हूँ।  
संघर्ष भरे जीवन में,  
कामयाब होते हुए भी,  
आज मालूम पड़ा कि मैं नाकाम हूँ।  
चहचहाते पक्षियों  
और मासूम किलकारियों के संग से,  
आज मालूम पड़ा कि मैं हैवान हूँ।  
साँप और नेवले को देखकर  
महूसस होता है मुझे  
प्यार का मखमली अहसास।  
आज मालूम पड़ा कि मैं क्या हूँ -  
मैं इंसान हूँ ।

मुस्कुराती धूप

स्कंद गोयल

रात के तूफान के बाद,  
आज सुबह  
बादलों की सलवटों से निकल  
सूरज की कुछ किरणों ने झांका ।  
आगे बढ़ा,  
तो ज़मीन में पड़े दूटे गीले पत्तों पर  
पैर पड़ा और पैर पर पड़ीं  
धूप की कुछ किरणें।  
कुछ रोशनी,  
कुछ गरमाहट से लबरेज़  
पैरों को पहली बार  
इस तरह देखा -  
कि हवा की ठंडी छाया पर  
पड़ती, मुस्कुराती धूप ।

चोर-पुलिस

यशवर्धन सिंघानिया

अभी कुछ दिनों पहले की बात है। जब मैं सुबह उठा तो रोज़ जैसा ही एक सुहाना सा दिन था। रोज़ की भांति मैंने नाश्ता किया और खेलने चला गया? छुट्टियाँ होने के कारण

सारे मित्र वहीं थे। हम खेल ही रहे थे कि घर में से मेरी माँ के चीखने का स्वर आया। मैं भागकर घर गया। अन्दर जाकर पता चला कि माँ का हार खो गया था। मेरी माँ का रो-रोकर बुरा हाल था। मैंने उनसे जब वादा किया कि मैं उनका हार ढूँढ कर ही रहूँगा। मेरी दृढ़ता देखकर उनकी आँखों में खुशी और गर्व के आँसू भी आ गये।

मेरे दोस्त घोरी की खबर सुनकर घर चले गये थे पर मैंने सब भूलकर सुराग ढूँढने शुरू किये। घर के अन्दर तो कुछ नहीं मिला। लेकिन जब मैं घूमते-घूमते बगीचे में गया तो वहाँ कुछ जूते के निशान देखे। मैंने उनकी एक तस्वीर बनाकर अपनी जेब में रख ली। इसके बाद नाश्ता किया और खोजबीन फिर शुरू की। घर के हर इंसान के जूते मैंने बगीचे के निशान से मिलाने शुरू किये। जब मैंने चौकीदार से उसके जूते मांगे तो वो आनाकानी करने लगा पर मैं चुपके से उसके कमरे में गया और उसके जूते देखे। मैंने पाया कि पूरे घर में सबसे ज़्यादा तो वे निशान उसी के जूतों से मिल रहे थे। मुझे अपना पहला सम्भावित अपराधी मिल गया था।

दोपहर का खाना खाकर मैं थोड़ी देर सो गया। उठने पर मैंने माँ से चौकीदार के बारे में पूछा तो उन्होंने बताया कि वो तो जल्दी छुट्टी लेकर चला गया था। मैं समझ नहीं पा रहा था कि क्या करूँ? मैं तब तो खाना खाकर सो गया लेकिन जब रात को चौकीदार आ गया तो मैं उसके कमरे के बाहर गया। दरवाजे के पीछे से किसी के बोलने की आवाज़ आ रही थी। वो कुछ कह रहा था कि अगले दिन वो मालामाल हो जायेगा। मैंने उसका पीछा करने का निश्चय किया।

अगले दिन वो फिर जल्दी छुट्टी लेकर जाने लगा तो मैं उसके पीछे हो लिया। वो पास ही के ज़ेवरो की एक दुकान में घुसा। बाहर से ही मैंने देखा कि वह कुछ चमकीली सी चीज निकालकर जौहरी को देने लगा। वो मेरी माँ का ही हार था। मैं तुरंत अन्दर घुसा और उस सुनार से वो हार छीन लिया और सारी सच्चाई बता दी। चौकीदार भागने लगा लेकिन सुनार के आर्दमियों ने उसे पकड़ लिया। मैंने फोन कर माँ और पिताजी को बुलाया और घोर चौकीदार के सच्चाई उनके सामने खोल कर रख दी। घोर को पकड़वाकर मैंने दुवारा अपनी माँ की आँखें नम कर दी लेकिन आज वे आँसू खुशी के थे, गर्व के थे।

दर्पण

तरंग सुराना

यह शीशा है या काँच  
पहुँचाए बहुत लोगों को आँध।  
कभी दिखलाता है मन का सुख,  
कभी उभारता है अन्दर का दुःख।  
कितने लोगों ने की इससे बात,  
याद है उसे वह आधी रात।  
क्या है उसके मन का हाल,  
मानो उसका दिल है भीमताल।  
जानता है लोगों की भावना,  
जानता है उनकी मनोकामना।  
क्योंकि दर्पण है शीशा,  
न कि काँच

एक दिन अँख ने कहा - 'मैं इन घाटियों से दूर नीली धुंध से ढके पहाड़ों को देख रही हूँ। क्या वे सुन्दर नहीं?  
कान ने सुना तो थोड़ी देर के पश्चात बोला - मेरी बहन, वे पहाड़ हैं कहीं? मुझे तो कहीं उसकी आवाज़ सुनाई नहीं देती।  
कान की बात सुनकर हाथ बोला - मैं उसे धूँ और अनुभव करने का प्रयत्न कर रहा हूँ। मुझे तो कोई पहाड़ नहीं मिलता।  
उसी समय नाक भी बोल उठी - भाई लोगों, स्थिर कोई पहाड़ है ही नहीं। जब मुझे किसी पहाड़ की गंध ही नहीं आ रही।  
अँख दूसरी ओर देखने लगी। वे तीनों उसके आश्चर्यजनक अनुभव की घर्षा करने लगे। और कहने लगे -  
लगता ऐसा ही है कि अँख को अवश्य कुछ भ्रम हो गया है।  
(अलील जिब्रान, मन्दिर के द्वार पर से साभार)

# And The Answer is...

Abhaas Shah and Udai Shriram report on the Inter-House Quiz

An auspicious day called for a special event, and so the '11th day of the 11th month' saw the hosting of the annual Inter-House Quiz Competition on a balmy Saturday evening. A tide of DoscOs grudgingly swept into the MPH, chatting and speculating on the likely outcome. As the lights dimmed and the aimless chatter ceased, the distinguished quizmaster, Mr. John Xavier, ascended the stage to call upon the contestants to take their seats.

The slideshows and sound effects managed to enthrall the otherwise easily-bored DoscOs, keeping everyone entertained with music clips. 'Axel F' by *Crazy Frog* sounded incomplete to everyone, and a collective 'Beeng! Beeng!' was occasionally heard when that clip played.

The first round - *Who Am I*, was a Picture Round, featuring famous personalities when they were young. Tony Blair in his hippie avatar, and George Bush as a toddler, were a challenge to identify. H House took off early with a fifteen-point lead. K House shot up with twenty points to their credit in the Sports Round. They maintained their lead in the Literature and History rounds as well. T and H Houses stayed close behind.

The much-awaited Music Round grabbed everyone's attention. It featured love songs, old and new. But a tepid response from both the audience and contestants proved that DoscOs are not a romantic bunch. By the end of the Current Affairs and Science Rounds, K House had taken everyone by storm, sitting pretty with a high score of sixty points, while J, H and O Houses were battling it out for the second position.

The Movie Round was also captivating, displaying clips from movies as recent as *Walk The Line* and classics like *Guns of Navarone*. The tenth and final round, the Buzzer Round, was exciting, with Tata House taking a lot of risks. Kashmir House got another four questions right, ending the competition with a final score of 105, far ahead of Hyderabad, who stood 2nd with 55 points. Oberoi and Jaipur Houses tied for third place with 45 points, while Tata House ended with a score of 25 points.

The audience was given its turn after every round. Simple questions were posed, and rarely did they go unanswered. There was animated competition for the chocolate prizes.

The competition ended with the prize distribution. Everyone was satisfied - having, as JNX put it, 'learnt something in a fun way'. They left in a buoyant mood having unexpectedly enjoyed the entire experience.

## peepingtom by Tanuj Bhramar



Lost property redefined

### CAREER CALL

The careers' notice board, in the coming week, provides updates on the **Joint Entrance Examination 2007 (JEE)**, and on the **Maths Olympiad**.

### LIBRARY FOCUS

The following are the latest additions to the Library:

**The Elements of Drama** - J.L. Styan  
vräabe sbd e vh Wz, e l sh - M.S. Joshi  
çgt nt~ ni ael fl? - M.S. Joshi  
flni btnöb" br~ fl stgme - P. Pankaj  
ad e ýRontög flrJ, tYk - G.S. Aggarwal  
beht - P. Pankaj



### LETTERS

#### Assembly Announcements

Around this time of the year, new appointments will be made and announced at Assembly. In my opinion, this can be avoided as it is published in the *Weekly* and recorded officially. As all staff and students receive a copy of the *Weekly*, they are informed of the appointments anyway.

Assembly is nowadays cutting into class time, and this will help avoid that. Also, the time saved can be used for sharing thoughts during Assembly. I hope this suggestion will be considered.

(Akaash Maheshwari)

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